

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1077

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Coach Tommy West and the University of Memphis Tiger football team on their outstanding 2003 season.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this state; and

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis Tiger football team achieved unmatched success during the 2003 season, making history in the process; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers began their remarkable season with impressive victories over in-state rival Tennessee Technological University and a Southeastern Conference powerhouse, the University of Mississippi, and concluded their year with a 27-17 win over the University of North Texas at the New Orleans Bowl on December 16, 2003; and

WHEREAS, in the process, the Tigers utilized an extraordinary combination of explosive offense, stifling defense, and opportunistic special teams to post nine victories in 2003, the highest total by a Tiger team in four decades; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers finished third in Conference USA, which was their highest finish since the conference was established in 1996; and

WHEREAS, their tremendous success earned them an invitation to play in the program's first bowl game since the 1971 Pasadena Bowl; the succeeding Tiger victory extended the program's undefeated record in bowl games; and

WHEREAS, the unparalleled teamwork and dedication of the football players of the University of Memphis not only precipitated an outstanding season for the team, but also allowed numerous players to garner individual accolades; and

WHEREAS, Quarterback Danny Wimprino was named Most Valuable Player of the New Orleans Bowl; he also became the first Tiger to surpass 7,000 yards passing for a career, and he established twenty-five passing and total offense team records; and

WHEREAS, Tailback DeAngelo Williams was named Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year and a member of the CoSIDA All-Region IV Academic All-America Team; he broke the team's single season rushing record with 1,430 yards for the season, the fifth highest total in America, and led the nation in all-purpose yards; and

WHEREAS, ten Tigers earned recognition as members of the 2003 All-Conference USA Team, including DeAngelo Williams and Wesley Smith on the First Team, Coot Terry, Eric Taylor, and Maurice Avery on the Second Team, Derrick Ballard, Scott Vogel, Gene Frederic, and Jeremy Rone on the Third Team, and Blake Butler on the Freshman Team; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Tommy West and his superb assistant coaches laid the groundwork for the team's magnificent 2003 season by sharing their substantial knowledge of football with the men on the team; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Sportswriters Association named Coach West as its 2003 Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the football players at the University of Memphis epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the gridiron while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired the school's student body and united the entire Memphis community during their remarkable 2003 season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible an outstanding football season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the University of Memphis Tigers for their tremendous 2003 gridiron season and for serving as examples of the high quality of the college students of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that this Body joins the administration, faculty, students, and community of the
University of Memphis in congratulating the Tiger football coaches and players on their supreme
accomplishments in 2003 and wish them every future success, both on and off the gridiron.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.